#### LETTER OF AGREEMENT

# ON INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION THROUGH CITIZENSHIP AWARENESS, EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO

### **BETWEEN**

### THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

#### AND

#### U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

This Letter of Agreement ("LOA") is entered into by and between the Office of the Mayor ("Office of the Mayor") of the City of Chicago, an Illinois municipal corporation (the "City") and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") (hereinafter, "Parties") to promote immigrant integration through citizenship awareness, education, outreach, and civic participation.

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a nation of immigrants;

**WHEREAS**, more than 2.7 million people live in the City of Chicago, 21 percent of whom are immigrants;

WHEREAS, approximately 370,000 individuals in Illinois are currently eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship and since 2002, nearly 30,000 permanent residents have become U.S. citizens each year in the Chicago area, representing more than 150 countries of origin;

WHEREAS, the Parties are committed to the ideals of a robust and inclusive democracy and support the principle that America gains when immigrants understand the naturalization process, are aware of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, learn English, and are afforded expanded opportunities for civic participation;

WHEREAS, immigrant integration is a dynamic two-way process that requires not only immigrants becoming vested members of our communities, but also requires communities to welcome and provide tools that help new immigrants succeed.

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AGREED THAT:

- I. The Parties will distribute information on the naturalization process and the Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law to residents of the City of Chicago through the Parties' websites and at City facilities selected by the City.
- II. The Parties will collaborate to promote awareness of the rights, responsibilities, and importance of U.S. citizenship to residents of the City of Chicago.
- III. The Parties will work together—with the support of local community-based organizations—to plan, publicize, and host naturalization information sessions.
- IV. The Parties will celebrate citizenship by holding naturalization ceremonies at prominent venues in the City of Chicago.
- V. The Parties will engage with the business community to support citizenship education and awareness efforts and provide foreign entrepreneurs the information necessary to start and sustain businesses in the City of Chicago.
- VI. The Parties will identify and implement additional measures to increase awareness of citizenship rights, responsibilities, and the naturalization process among eligible residents in the City of Chicago.
- VII. The Parties will work together to track and evaluate the success of these efforts as appropriate.

This LOA is intended to reflect the intentions of the Parties to work in partnership and to put forward their best efforts to cooperate in the respects described. The parties will convene to plan and assess progress on a regular basis. This LOA does not create any enforceable legal obligation on either Party. The Parties agree that (a) the use of City facilities is subject to City policies and to applicable legal requirements, and (b) no official, employee, or elected or appointed representative of either of the Parties may be held personally liable for any breach of a provision of this LOA.

This LOA will remain in effect until May 1, 2015 or until terminated by mutual agreement or by either Party upon thirty (30) days advance written notice to the other Party at the address indicated below the signatures to this LOA.

Director

**USCIS** 

This LOA is effective as of the fifteenth day of July, 2013.

RAHM EMANUEL

Mayor

City of Chicago

Chicago, IL 60602

Attention: Corporation Counsel

4-22-13

City of Chicago Address

Office of New Americans
Office of the Mayor
121 North LaSalle Street, Room 500
Chicago, IL 60602
Attention: Director

And:

City of Chicago Law Department
121 North LaSalle Street, Room 600

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
Services Address

Office of Citizenship
20 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 5200
Washington, DC 20529